

## Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /077 W

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R 120630Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6384

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION UN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL DURBAN

UNCLAS MASERU 1352

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, SF, LT

SUBJECT: MFA STATEMENT ON SITUATION ALONG LESOTHO-TRANSKEI BORDER

1. ALL RESIDENT MISSIONS RECEIVED STATEMENT DATED NOV 11, 1976 UNDER COVER OF DIP NOTE WHICH REQUESTED FORWARDING TO THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS. STATEMENT READS AS FOLLOWS.

2. QTE SOON AFTER OCTOBER 26TH, IT CAME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE LESOTHO GOVERNMENT THAT THE BORDER POSTS BETWEEN LESOTHO AND THE TRANSKEI HAD BEEN CLOSED TO TRAFFIC OF GOODS AND PEOPLE OF LESOTHO WHO WERE INTENDING TO TRAVEL BETWEEN LESOTHO, THROUGH THE TRANSKEI, TO SOUTH AFRICA AND BEYOND. THE LESOTHO AMBASSADOR IN THE UNITED NATIONS MADE A STATEMENT AS FOLLOWS:

3. INNER QUOTES - THE BORDER HAD BEEN CLOSED SINCE OCTOBER 26 - IN HIS VIEW, THE MOVE WAS CALCULATED TO ARM-TWIST LESOTHO INTO ACCORDING RECOGNITION TO THE BANTUSTAN TRANSKEI -THE ONUS OF SEEING TO IT THAT THE BORDER REMAINS OPEN RESTS WITH SOUTH AFRICA AS THE CUSTOMS UNION AGREEMENT IS SIGNED BY THE UNCLASSIFIED

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LESOTHO AND RSA

-THE CLOSURE HAS SERIOUS ADVERSE ECONOMIC EFFECTS ON LESOTHO SUCH AS DRAFT IN IMPORTS, RESULTING IN DROP IN SHARE OF CUSTOMS  
-APPEALED TO INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO COME TO THE ASSISTANCE OF LESOTHO IN THE SAME MANNER AS THEY DID WITH ZAMBIA AND MOZAMBIQUE. END INNER QUOTES.

4. QTE LESOTHO GOVERNMENT REITERATES THE FACTS AS CONTAINED IN THE STATEMENT BY THE LESOTHO AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND REGARDS THE ATTEMPT THROUGH THE SOUTH AFRICAN MEDIA, RADIO, PRESS AND TELEVISION TO REFUTE THE AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT AS CALCULATED TO MISLEAD THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

5. QTE THE ENTRY POINTS BETWEEN LESOTHO AND SOUTH AFRICA INCLUDING THE TRANSKEI WERE A MATTER OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND LESOTHO. SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD HAVE MADE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WITH LESOTHO GOVERNMENT BEFORE TAKING THE UNILATERAL DECISION OF CLOSING THE BORDERS.

6. QTE FURTHER, THE POSITION OF LESOTHO GOVERNMENT IS THAT THE TRANSKEI WHICH IS AN APPENDAGE OF THE APARTHEID GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA IS MERELY BEING USED BY THAT GOVERNMENT TO RETALIATE ON LESOTHO'S STAND OF NON-RECOGNITION OF THAT TERRITORY AND BY SO DOING REFUSIN TO ENDORSE APARTHEID. THE LESOTHO GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AS HAVING THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OVER THE BORDER POSTS IN QUESTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS ENTERED INTO BETWEEN LESOTHO AND REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA. SOUTH AFRICA HAS THE DUTY TO ASSURE THAT PROPER ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE AT THESE BORDER POSTS FOR BASOTHO TO REACH PLACES OF DESTINATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA. OTHERWISE LESOTHO GOVERNMENT CANNOT BE BLAMED FOR INTERPRETING SOUTH AFRICA'S FAILURE TO MAKE SUCH ARRANGEMENTS AS AN UNFRIENDLY ACT OF HOSITILITY AGAINST LESOTHO GOVERNMENT AND THE BASOTHO.

7. QTE LESOTHO GOVERNMENT WISHES TO APPEAL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOR ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO ALLEVIATE THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACING LESOTHO AS A RESULT OF THE BORDER CLOSURES. UNQTE.

8. COPY OF NOTE, STATEMENT AND RECENT SA PRESS CLIPPINGS BEING POUCHED TO AF/S.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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